

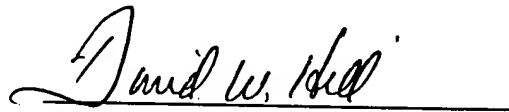
The examiner is respectfully requested to consider the above preliminary amendment prior to examination of the application.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this preliminary amendment, please charge the fees to Deposit Account No. 06-0916. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

By:



David W. Hill

Reg. No. 28,220

Date: May 2, 2001
DWH/FPD/peg

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ANNEXES TO THE PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Applicants submit the following claims with strikeouts and underlining for the Examiner's convenience as required by new rule 37 C.F.R. 1.121 (c)(1)(ii).

This paper is not intended to be entered.

3. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein said computer network is the internet and/or any direct electronic link.
4. (Amended) A method as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the prospective user has an email-based client application for accessing the IM system.
5. (Amended) A method as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the prospective user has a GSM device forming part of a GSM network for accessing the IM system.
7. (Amended) A method as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein said client specific address is sourced from an email or SMS message sent to the email address of said IM server.
8. (Amended) A method as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein said specific address is sourced from an email or SMS message sent to the email address of a registered user on said IM server.
9. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 7 ~~or 8~~, wherein said email or SMS message is sent by said prospective server.

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10. (Amended) A method as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein said client specific address is sourced from a message sent to said IM server from a registered user of said IM system, on any client type accessible to said IM server.
13. (Amended) A system as claimed in claim 7 ~~or 8~~, wherein said computer network is the internet and/or any direct electronic link.
14. (Amended) A system as claimed in ~~any one of claims 7 to 9~~ claim 7, wherein the prospective user has an email-based client application for accessing the IM system.
15. (Amended) A system as claimed in ~~any one of claims 7 to 10~~ claim 7, wherein the prospective user has a GSM device forming part of a GSM network for accessing the IM system.
16. (Amended) A system as claimed in ~~any one of claims 7 to 10~~ claim 7, wherein said GSM network has SMS capability and said prospective user is initially connected to an SMSC server to control and manage said SMS therebetween, and wherein said SMSC server is directly connected to said IM server via said computer network.
17. (Amended) A system as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 7, wherein said client specific address is sourced from an email or SMS message sent to the email address of said IM server.
18. (Amended) A system as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 7, wherein said client specific address is sourced from an email or SMS message sent to the email address of a registered user on said IM server.
19. (Amended) A system as claimed in claim 17 ~~or 18~~, wherein said email or SMS message is sent by said prospective user.

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20. (Amended) A system as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 17, wherein said client specific address is sourced from a message sent to said IM server from a registered user of said IM system, on any client type accessible to said IM server.

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